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The Friday Letter

Vol. 8 No. 4

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Status of 1989 Budget



The Fiscal Year 1989 Budget was sent to Congress on February 18. It includes \$20 billion in appropriation requests for the Food and Nutrition Service.

The FPA level for FNS is \$94.5 million—a \$9 million increase above 1988. While continuing the downward trend in staff years to 1,820, our FPA provides significant contract funding for an independent child nutrition review system, an updated accounting system, the fourth year of the IRM plan, implementation of a new work measurement system, and the redesign of the food stamp redemption system.

The appropriations for WIC and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program are combined in order to assure that funds not needed to support current participation can be channeled to increased services for women, infants, and children in either program.

No administrative funds are requested for TEFAP in Fiscal Year 1989.

"This budget continues the budget summit agreement that finally gave us our 1988 appropriation," said Budget Director Jerry Boling. "Let's hope the rest of USDA is equally non-controversial so we can get our appropriation on time."

—Story by Linda Boling
Public Information Staff

FNS Is On The Move

Why are so many people mad at Wally Jacobsen when all he's trying to do is save the government a little money?

Jacobsen, chief of the Property Management Branch of ASD, is the man behind The Move. He's been coordinating the moving of offices at FNS's Park Center headquarters, and the construction, painting, and carpeting that's going on in conjunction with the moving.

It isn't easy. "People don't know what we're up against," Jacobsen said. "All they know is we're reducing their working space and taking away their furniture. They complain to us about nicks and spots in the new paint job. They want the door to their office in a different place. A lot of people seem to think we're doing this just to have something to do."

Jacobsen is reducing FNS workers' space, but it wasn't his idea. Executive Order 12411, issued in 1983, requires the government to reduce its working space to 135 square feet per person. The idea is to lease less space and save money.

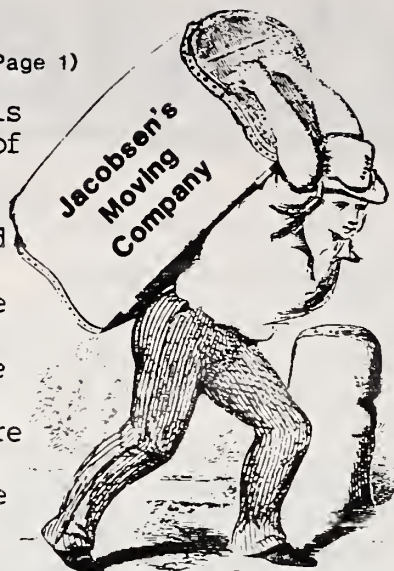
The idea is going to work -- at least it will at FNS, Jacobsen said. "All the construction we're doing in this building will cost less than a half-million dollars. We'll save a half-million in lease costs next year alone," he said, not to mention reduced lease costs in years to come.

In the process, FNS will reduce the space it leases at Park Center by some 28,400 square feet, giving up the 10th and 11th floors.

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What that means is the same number of people in less space, and Jacobsen conceded that some people may feel they are working in tight quarters. But he pointed out that much old furniture is being eliminated in the moving process.



This project has been in the planning stages since the executive order was issued in 1983, Jacobsen said, but only really got underway last year with the renovation of the second and fourth floors at Park Center. He said the second phase — work on the third, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth floors — started in October and is due for completion by the end of May. Divisions on those floors will be moved to temporary locations while work is done on their areas, then will be moved into their permanent homes.

"That's easier than having the work go on around them, like some divisions have had to do," Jacobsen said.

Jacobsen and his crews from the Property Management Branch have been doing the moves on weekends, so as to disrupt the divisions' work as little as possible. The crews typically start work Friday evening and put in about 25

hours of work before finishing Sunday evening. They'll keep up that schedule every weekend for another 3 or 4 months, Jacobsen said.

Jacobsen's work has been complicated by the addition of FNS' new computer equipment and the furniture that goes with it. "The timing on all this couldn't have been worse," he said.

The new modular computer furniture will replace many old desks, but Jacobsen said the fact is that the agency is adding about 450 new machines just as it's trying to reduce its space. That can be tricky, Jacobsen said, and not just because the new machines need space.

"We're popping breakers all over the building," he said. "All the electrical systems are at maximum because of the new computer machinery."

"However, we have already implemented plans," Jacobsen said, "to upgrade electrical service to handle the increased demand."

But Wally Jacobsen's biggest headache is that no one appreciates what he's doing. He's pleased with the way the work has gone so far, but he knows he's in a thankless job.

"We've completed a lot of this project, but we've had no good comments at all, only gripes," he said. "People resist change. We're reducing their space, taking away furniture, maybe an old favorite chair, that they like."

"Even though the disruptions are annoying," he said, "when we are all relocated in our newly refurbished space, I believe we will enjoy the new work environment."

"We're doing this because we have to," he said. "Please be nice to us."

Linda L. Boling
Editor, Public Information Staff

The Friday Letter is published every 2 weeks by the Public Information Staff of the Food and Nutrition Service. To update mailing address, or to alter number of copies received, please mail changes to the FNS Public Information Staff, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 823, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone no. 756-3284.

-Story by Phil Shanholtzer
Public Information Staff

Midwest Region Names EEO Counselors

Regional Administrator Monroe Woods (far right) named three new EEO counselors for the Midwest Regional Office. They are from left to right: Rick Almandare, Family Nutrition Programs specialist; Carl Rippe, Family Nutrition Programs specialist; and Martha Shipley, Supplemental Food Program specialist.

The counselors have already attended a 1-week training session, and will serve on the EEO committee for 2 years.



-Story and Photo by
Midwest Public Affairs Staff

NERO WIC RAVE Award Presented in Rhode Island

December 11 marked the presentation of the first WIC Regional Award for Vendor Excellence (RAVE) for FY 1988. The purpose of RAVE is to recognize and encourage vendors who demonstrate cooperative working relationships with participants and local agencies, leading to more efficient service to WIC clients. This is the fourth year for the Northeast Region's RAVE Awards.



The recipient of this award was Rhode Island grocer John P. Roch of Roch Brothers Market in West Warwick. Roch Brothers was nominated for the RAVE Award by the Rhode Island Department of Health WIC Program, and cited for low prices charged, and extensive selection of WIC foods. Although the store's level of WIC sales is about the state's average for WIC vendors, Roch Brothers' average value per redeemed WIC check is the lowest of all Rhode Island WIC independent grocers. The award was presented to John Roch on behalf of the store and its employees at the annual Rhode Island WIC Program conference by NERO Deputy Administrator Miguel Valdivielso, pictured above left with John Roch.

Other NERO states will be nominating grocers for RAVE Awards during the course of this fiscal year.

-Story and Photo by
NERO Public Affairs Staff

MARO Learns "Just Say No" From Local Drug Treatment Center

Focusing on the theme of "Just Say No," MARO's Public Affairs Office recently sponsored a charity event for Damon House, a local substance abuse treatment center.

Ileen Bradley, executive director of Damon House, talked to a standing-room-only audience about drugs and alcohol and the center's residential treatment program. Damon House is private and nonprofit. Most of its residents are indigent and have been on other treatment programs before coming to Damon House. The center operates on a shoestring budget, receiving funding from a variety of government and private sources.



Executive Director Ileen Bradley explains Damon House's drug rehabilitation program.

Saying that many people have the wrong impressions of addicts, Bradley introduced two residents of the program. Sam Andrews, 19, and Dave Bowman, 21, gave moving accounts of their lives, their addictions to cocaine, and the progress they have made while at Damon House. Both men said the supportive atmosphere of the center seems to be preparing them well to cope with the outside world.

Bradley fielded a number of questions, discussing work with school children and the "Just Say No" program. "'Just Say No' is a start," she said, "but it's not enough. I can't begin to tell

you the peer pressure kids are under today. They're not allowed to be children." She said she teaches children that they are all special, with something to offer.

Bradley ended by advising adults and children not to experiment with drugs. She said no one knows beforehand if they can stop with experimentation or if it will lead to addiction.



Damon House resident Dave Bowman tells MARO employees how cocaine addiction affected his life. Resident Sam Andrews (left) looks on.



(Left to right) Len Klepner and Jim Kay watch as Deputy Regional Administrator John McClellan judges a cheesecake contest that raised \$300 for Damon House.

-Story and Photos by
MARO Public Affairs Staff

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of November with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>Nov. 1986</u>	<u>Oct. 1987</u>	<u>Nov. 1987</u> <u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.)	19.1	18.4	18.4
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	878.1	922.9	925.2
Average bonus per person	\$ 45.96	\$ 50.06	\$ 50.25
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	973.4	1,024.5	1,026.7
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	90.2	89.6	89.6
Children participating (mil.)	24.3	24.7	24.7
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.8	11.9	11.8
Percentage of lunches served free	41.6	41.4	40.5
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price	6.8	6.7	6.7
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	312.8	410.4	339.8
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	37.4	38.1	38.1
Children participating (mil.)	3.7	3.8	3.7
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	88.3	88.0	87.2
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	44.2	57.1	47.7
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	33.0	39.4	33.4
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	22.2	27.7	26.4
Percentage of all meals served free	78.0	78.1	79.0
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	41.0	50.7	46.1
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.)	3.4	3.5	3.5
Food cost (\$ mil.)	108.1	115.4	115.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	132.7	141.6	138.0
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>			
People participating (thous.)	131.1	162.7	159.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	2.4	2.7	2.7
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation	106	106	106
People participating (thous.)	142.8	136.6	138.8
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.2	4.1	4.2
<u>Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program:</u>			
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	75.1	71.9	70.4

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of January 25, 1988.

3/ Includes data for Commodity Elderly as of January 1987.

Food and Nutrition Service
Program Information Division

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the vacant positions listed below. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you are interested in a headquarters position, apply to the Operations Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, Virginia

22302. Apply directly to headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For regional positions, apply directly to the regional office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or copies can be obtained from the appropriate regional or headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk-Stay in School	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk/Typist	(L)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until filled	None	FNS
o Secretary/Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open Continuous	88-999	FNS
o Labor Relations Spec	(G)	GS-233	9/11/12	02/29/88	88-07	PED
o Supvry Legis Analyst	(U)	GM-301	14	03/07/88	88-08	OGAPI
o Management Analyst	(FNS-H)	GS-343	11/12	03/01/88	88-09	OGAPI
o Supvry Pers Stfg & Class Spec1st	(U)	GM-201	14	03/14/88	88-10	PED
*o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-345	12/13	03/14/88	88-11	OAE
o Assoc Administrator	(A)	GM-601,630	15	02/29/88	88-H-1	HNIS
o Supvry Nutritionist	(A)	GM-630	13	02/29/88	88-H-4	HNIS

* Full Time or Part Time, 16-32 Hours/Week

FNS - Food and Nutrition Service
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 OAE - Office of Analysis & Evaluation
 OGAPI - Office of Governmental Affairs & Public Information
 PED - Personnel Division

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (FNS-H) - FNS Headquarters Wide
 (G) - Governmentwide
 (L) - Local Commuting Area
 (U) - USDA Wide